

February 17, 1945

NEWSLETTER TOPICS

NATIONAL 4-H CLUB WEEK

March 3 to 11 has been set aside as National 4-H Club Week. During this period the nation will pay tribute to the organization, with emphasis on the wartime services of the 1,700,000 4-H Club members.

Since Pearl Harbor, 4-H Club members have raised 400,000 acres of home gardens, 33,000,000 chickens, 300,000 dairy cattle, 1,600,000 meat animals and 200,000 acres of oil crops. Other activities have included the collection of 300,000,000 pounds of scrap, and the purchase and the sale to others of war bonds amounting to \$140,000,000.

One of the 1945 4-H Club activities will be the new Better Farm-and-Home Methods Electric contest. This contest will supersede the Rural Electrification contest held in former years and will emphasize the use of electricity in developing better methods for performing jobs and chores on the farm and in the farm home.

The 1945 Better Farm-and-Home Methods Electric Contest will be conducted cooperatively by the Extension Services of the State Colleges of Agriculture and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. County and state winners will be selected, and the state winner in each state will receive an all-expense trip to the National 4-H Club Congress to be held in Chicago next December. Six of the state winners will receive \$200 scholarships donated by a manufacturer of electrical goods.

The Contest will be held in more than 40 states. Last year, the Rural Electrification Contest was held in all states except Arizona, California, Florida, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Washington. However, Florida has indicated that it will participate in the new Better Farm-and-Home Methods Electric Contest.

TIPS ON USING YOUR ELECTRIC CHICK BROODER

You can get the best results from your electric chick brooder only when you use it properly. According to Dan W. Teare, REA farm electrification specialist, here are some things you should remember.

1. Use your brooder in an unheated, draft-free brooder house. Any broken window panes should be replaced and the building should be in good condition.
2. The brooder house should be cleaned and disinfected, if it was used last year.
3. Arrange for a supply of litter such as peat moss, chopped alfalfa, wood shavings, ground corn cobs or other suitable material.
4. Examine and test your brooder to see that it is working properly.
5. Before using, bring the temperature of the brooder to about 100 degrees and arrange the feed troughs and waterers so they will be partly under the hover.
6. When chicks are placed under the brooder, observe their actions. If they bunch near the center, the temperature is too low; if they crowd the edges, it's too high. They should be scattered fairly evenly under the hover.
7. Be sure to change the sizes of the lamps in home-made lamp brooders as weather conditions, age and feathering require. This will prevent excessive use of current.

REA plans for a home-made lamp brooder that ordinarily can be built in half a day may be obtained from the Cooperative office.

ELECTRIC COOKERY HINTS

Here are some suggestions that will help you to obtain perfect results in using your electric oven.

Bright metal pans are best for cakes and cookies. Warped or spotty pans may cause uneven browning. Oven glass or metal pans can be used for pies and quick breads.

Pans should be placed an inch from the sides of the oven and at least an inch apart to permit heat circulation. When the pans are placed on two racks, they should be staggered so that those on the upper tier are not directly over the pans on the lower tier.

Top-sided cakes and unevenly browned cookies and biscuits may indicate that your range is not level. You can check this by placing a carpenter's level on the oven rack. A pan of water placed on the oven rack also can be used as a check, since the water will run toward the lower side. You can use a hardwood wedge under the low corner to make your range level.

SOME GOOD EXAMPLES OF NEWSLETTER ITEMS

We carry a lot of publicity concerning the fellow using larger amounts of electricity and hold him up as an example to follow. This is as it should be, but we are most concerned about the member who is constantly trying to hold his consumption below his minimum. A composite picture shows such members making electric service a burden rather than a help in farming. A few instances have been recorded within our Association that would be humorous if they were only isolated cases. Here is one: A member complained it was impossible to keep within the \$2 minimum although they lighted a kerosene lamp every time they put fuel in the kitchen stove so as to avoid turning on the light for that short period, turned down the volume of the radio until it was hard to listen to, went to bed early and waited until daylight to read the newspaper. Another member stopped using electricity when near the minimum and several others turned on their yard lights for hours in order to use every kilowatt-hour allowed under the minimum. Our problem is to make these people see the value of the use of electricity from the standpoint of economical application in a broader sense of the word. The fact that a large majority use over the minimum and that our average is over 100 KWH proves that most of our members are putting electric service to practical use. (From newsletter of Lake Region Cooperative Electrical Association, Pelican Rapids, Minnesota.)

I want to thank Carl A. Anderson for the use of his saddle horse, and Mr. and Mrs. George Shimp for the fine dinner they gave me, while I was working on the outage during the recent storm. The Manager. (From newsletter of Butte Electric Cooperative, Newell, South Dakota.)

Mrs. Henry Schafer writes: We sure did miss the water when the lights went out. I tried to melt snow and wash the dishes, but the next day when the lights came on I had to wash them all over again. (From newsletter of Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative, Ashton, Idaho.)

John Jones, of Eaton, has more than doubled his milk production since he received electricity. Mr. Jones has purchased more cows, an electric milking machine and an electric water pump. (From newsletter of Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Bouckville, New York.)

